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BATH
HUMANE SOCIETY,

Instituted in the Year 1805;

SUPPORTED BY
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.



PRINTED BY
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1806.

As the following Errors, occasioned by the extreme hurry in which these Sheets were obliged to be sent to press, influence the sense; the Reader is therefore requested to correct them with his pen:—

Page 13, line 6 from the bottom, for *to* read *through*.

19, l. 15 for *not* read *most*.

28, l. 2 from the bottom, for *curvature* read *curvature*. The same word occurs in other places.

29, l. 12 from the bottom, for *or* read *but*.

35, l. 8 from the bottom, for *hole* read *pole*.

40, for "By Cash of Messrs. Clement and Tugwell,"
read *a DONATION by Messrs. Clement & Tugwell*.





ADDRESS TO 'THE PUBLIC.

AS the City of Bath is not more distinguished for its opulence, than for the benevolent disposition of its inhabitants and occasional visitors, and for the assiduity with which they attempt to alleviate the various distresses of mankind, it has been a subject of surprise, that so little attention was paid to one of the greatest calamities that can befall mankind, *the danger of Sudden Death*, particularly by DROWNING; although the increased population of the city, and the recent formation of an extensive Canal in its immediate vicinity, are hourly augmenting this danger, and multiplying the number of fatal accidents.

There was, it is true, an attempt, many years ago, to direct the public attention towards this important object; but although several *successful* cases presented themselves, yet the design did not, at that period, receive sufficient encouragement, and it gradually declined. It is probable that its promoters

had to combat with a greater degree of the *incredulity* which prevailed in the infancy of such Institutions, than it was in their power to subdue.

A series of years, and facts innumerable, have at length convinced the world of the possibility of restoring to all the functions and offices of life, a description of persons, who had in former days been neglected as irrecoverably lost. Success has so repeatedly crowned the endeavours of the humane, and restorations to life, after the perseverance of many hours in the use of the restorative process, are so well attested, that incredulity cannot now be attributed to any other cause than to a culpable inattention to evidence.

Alarmed at the many fatal accidents which happen, and aware that such accidents must increase with increased navigation, several persons of this City, who have the cause of humanity at heart, became solicitous to place an Institution for the Recovery of the Drowned, and of others, whose vital powers have been suspended by various causes, in a conspicuous rank among the numerous charities, which are its greatest ornament. They commenced their benevolent design in the summer of 1805, which was immediately encouraged by the *Society for the suppression of common Vagrants, and relief of indigent Beggars*, with a promptitude and liberality so congenial with its character. Several medical Gentlemen also, to

whom application was made, and whose residence is most contiguous to places of danger, have cheerfully promised their gratuitous assistance.

The contents of the following pages will evince, that the first promoters of our Institution have not been remiss or unsuccessful in their attempts. It will be perceived that they have been enabled, by the public bounty, to provide a competent number of medical Apparatus; to establish Receiving-Houses, purchase a large number of Drags, and deposit them at the most convenient places; to distribute printed Cautions and Directions among the lower classes, and give them publicity in places most contiguous to danger; and to hold out such Rewards as seem calculated to excite attention, and promote expedition. In consequence of these exertions, and these arrangements, they observe with much satisfaction, that they have already awakened attention, and inspired an useful spirit of alacrity respecting accidents, which had, before the establishment of our Institution, no other effect than to become the subject of interesting conversation, and of transient regret among the populace collected together in courts and alleys; and in consequence of this spirit they are able already to pronounce that *they have done good*.

It is not the wish to fill our pages of Reports with cases of a very extraordinary nature. It is infinitely more desirable to make such provision for the admi-

nistering of immediate assistance, that the subject may be rescued before the alarming appearances of death shall have taken place. For although there have been many instances of recovery, under indications which were formerly considered as fatal, yet uniform success cannot be expected in such desperate cases; and however flattering a wonderful recovery may be to the medical practitioner and his assistants, yet their humanity must forbid them to desire an honour purchased by the irrecoverable loss of many others, who were in a similar predicament. It is our object to render preservation from extreme danger so prompt and complete, that medical restoration shall become less frequent. This has been, and shall continue to be our aim.

There is no plan of benevolence in the recommendation of which a more forcible appeal could be made, both to the head and the heart, than the one we are endeavouring to establish. But as we can refer the public to those interesting representations which are occasionally inserted in the reports of the Royal Humane Society established in London, and to the eloquent discourses which have been preached and published in its recommendation, we shall decline the attempt. Numbers who may read this Address, will also recollect a spectacle far exceeding the eloquence of *language*. They may have repeatedly seen, at the anniversaries of the Humane Society,

persons of different sexes and ages, walk in solemn procession, triumphant as it were over the death that had threatened them, manifesting their enjoyment of renewed existence by looks of gratitude towards their benefactors, and warming *their* bosoms with the blended emotions of wonder, sympathetic joy, and self-complacency. Contenting ourselves with these references, we shall simply state the following facts, which will, it is hoped, operate as a powerful reproof of our former negligence, and stimulate us to future exertions.

In the year 1774, a Society distinguished by the name of the *Royal Humane Society, for the recovery of persons apparently dead by drowning*, was established in the metropolis of the Kingdom. It was soon enabled to extend its assistance to every other case of suspended vitality. So important and beneficent was the object, and so successful were the attempts, that in a very few years it became the parent of similar institutions, not only in several parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, but in the East and West Indies, and in most of the British Isles. It appears from the Reports at the anniversary of 1805, that from the first establishment of the Society, to that date, out of *four thousand seven hundred and eighty-five* accidents for which rewards have been paid, not less than *two thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine* persons have been restored to life, their

friends, and their country ; constituting a majority of *nine hundred and sixty-three* ! In many of the objects, every spark of vitality appeared to have been extinguished ; in *some*, the contest continued for several hours, before the vital powers could be called into action. When the cases were not so *extraordinary*, they were equally *advantageous* ; for those who were rescued before the danger became extreme, equally owed their preservation to the judicious plans, and liberal remunerations of the Society.*

We recommend it to the political Economist, to calculate the good accruing to the community at large, by the restoration of multitudes of the industrious to their families and the public, whose occupations continually expose them to the dangers of deep waters. We invite the benevolent mind to contrast the anguish and horrors of the parents, relatives and friends of the unfortunate, at the period of extreme danger, with the extasies inspired by the first assurances of returning life ! Nor can such humane dispositions hear with cold indifference, that many rash and melancholy sons and daughters of disappointment and despair, have been *reconciled* to life ; and have frequently expressed their gratitude to God and man, for their being recalled to the existence they had attempted to extinguish. We could also enumerate several instances in which subscribers to these

* The Reports of the Year 1806, are not yet received.

Institutions have been recompensed for the benevolence of their disposition towards others, in *their own personal preservation*, or in the restoration of those most dear to them. Such facts, sufficiently indicate, that true policy, the finest feelings of the heart, and personal safety, are singularly blended in this humane design.

By adverting to the statement at the end of this publication, the reader will perceive that we were able to cite in the year 1805 several instances of preservation from drowning. In the last year the numbers were increased. Although we cannot as yet boast of any extraordinary instances of recovery, where the flame of life appeared to have been totally extinguished, yet we can boast of having administered such immediate aid, that the danger has been prevented from becoming extreme. It is also observable, from our statement, that of the many accidents which have happened, they have been chiefly to young children, some of them almost babes!—What severe censures do not those parents deserve, who suffer their children to wander unguarded to every place of danger with which this city is surrounded! Every humane bosom is alarmed at the sight of the numbers of children and infants that are playing, in the summer months, by the sides of the River, or at the utmost verge of the Canal. The places which they chiefly frequent are the most dan-

gerous: these are at the Locks, or the heads of the many Sluices formed on different parts of the Canal. Here they play with their paper boats, or imitate the angler with their threads and crooked pins, because it is at these places that they can have the easiest access to the water. But should they fall in, it is absolutely impossible for them to escape drowning, if no friendly hand administers assistance. There are no gently-declining banks towards which they may instinctively struggle, nor branches of trees at which they may grasp, and perchance escape; and they must inevitably perish! Every humane person must lament that these Sluices should remain so completely and invitingly exposed. Were they placed expressly as *traps* to the unwary, they could not be more desirably situated! Surely the advantages of commerce, and the wealth of one class of men might be promoted without the exposure of others to such dreadful disasters! Have not the community at large a right to expect that a Society which has expended so many thousands with a view to *gain*, will add a few pounds with a view to *safety*? and that it will provide a remedy against those evils to which multitudes are exposed, who can never share in the most extensive success of its plans?

It will be said, it has been said, that our Institution assumes too much honour to itself, by ascribing these different preservations to its exertions; that

common humanity will induce one person to assist another, in such extremities, without the hopes of a Reward. We answer that the numbers who have annually perished in the Environs of this City, for a series of years, during the space in which no Institution existed, and the thousands who have been saved in the metropolis and its neighbourhood, as well as in various parts of England, since the year 1774, are a full confutation of such hypothetic notions ; and as fully manifest that since they are not true they are pernicious ; that they are not dictated by true humanity notwithstanding the compliment they pay it, and that they are injurious to its cause. It may farther be asserted, in opposition to them, that to the great benefits primarily intended by these Institutions, we may add the obvious and rapid progress of humanity among the lower class of people. Incredulity used to render even spectators negligent. A supposition that restoration to life was an impossibility, necessarily prevented the attempt. The spectator just heaved a sigh and went his way ; and those who were not eye-witnesses could have no other motive to make inquiries about these melancholy accidents, than compassionate curiosity. Humanity itself could proceed no farther, and with the obdurate and insensible it would not proceed so far. The stimulus of a premium was therefore necessary to encourage exertion, concerning the result of which they had no favoura-

ble opinion; and it greatly quickened the humanity seated in their bosoms, in cases where immediate assistance might be given. It is well known that much greater attention to accidents of the kind, and much more speedy assistance was administered after the establishment of the Society, than was known among Barge and Watermen before that period. Their success inspired joy and transports far beyond the influence of the remuneration. The glow of satisfaction at having done good, and the desire to imitate those who had succeeded, became of themselves powerful stimulants, and rendered instances of disinterested benevolence, by a refusal of the proffered reward, not unfrequent. Such conduct had a natural tendency to shame the indifferent and lukewarm out of their supineness. These facts are well known to the first supporters of the Royal Humane Society, who have taken a retrospective view of its moral influence on the human mind. They will assert, with a degree of confidence, that Humanity is in the present day become as popular as Vice is generally allowed to be contagious. Thus it is probable that the moral benefits resulting to the community from these Institutions, may rival the advantages conferred upon the numbers who have been saved from destruction.

The utility of these institutions indicates itself in two different periods of the year: in the summer season, when the danger of drowning is considerably in-

creased from the number of *Bathers*, added to those whose occupations are upon the water; and in the Winter during a severe frost, from the number of *Skaiters* and *Sliders*, upon rivers, ponds and canals. The methods of treatment in these two classes of accidents are not perfectly similar, and the methods of preservation must be very different. In the Summer, Boats and Drags affixed to long ropes, are of the greatest service: in the Winter they are of *no use*. In Summer, the comparative warmth of the water and of the atmosphere, are favourable to resuscitation. In Winter, the coldness of each are peculiarly unfavourable. In the Summer, the accidents most frequently happen to those whose bodies are naked, no advantage therefore can be derived from the use of hooked Drags which catch hold of the clothes. In the Winter, Skaiters are frequently exposed to the most imminent danger, by the swiftness of their motion, which may carry them several yards over a thin plate of ice before they sink, and render it dangerous, if not impracticable for any assistants to approach the opening to which they may have fallen. Again, the projectile force, acquired by the swift motion of the Skaiter, will not be totally checked at the instant of his fall, but throw him to the bottom in an oblique direction, and at some distance from the opening; this renders it impracticable to direct a drag

suspended by a rope towards the spot, and renders a drag-pole peculiarly necessary.*

Should it be requisite to convey the unfortunate subject when found, to a considerable distance from the place of accident, which is very frequently the case, his continuing in his cold or wet cloaths, and exposed to the severity of the air, will greatly diminish the probability of his restoration, therefore a competent number of the ladders, and of biers or *couchetties*, so formed, that the unfortunate subject may be placed in the most favourable posture, and immediately wrapped round with blankets, to protect the body from augmented cold, become highly necessary.

* These facts should operate as a warning to adventurous youth, not to trust to an agility which may prove his death. The danger attendant upon skating, would be considerably diminished, were every skater to make it a practice, which is observed in some places, of holding a staff or a strong walking-stick, of a convenient length, in both hands in a horizontal direction. This would rather assist than impede the particular swing of the body, and in case of accident, by the staff's resting across the opening, the body might continue suspended, until assistance could be given.

THE MEMBERS OF THIS INSTITUTION,

SOLICITOUS TO PREVENT

The most alarming and distressing Misfortune that can befall
Mankind,

That of exposure to Sudden Death, by accidental Causes,

Think it necessary to publish the following

CAUTIONS AND DIRECTIONS:

I. **P**ERSONS who bathe in the River, Canal, or any Pool of Water, are advised to make proper inquiry concerning such places as are dangerous; and they are warned not to approach too near them, as a great number of young persons have been drowned through a culpable neglect of this caution, and they have not only lost their own lives, but have brought the greatest distress upon their parents and friends.

II. Bathers are cautioned not to go so far from the shore, as to be out of reach of immediate assistance, should they be in danger of drowning; for although the Society has provided Drags to extricate them from their distress, yet these cannot be made to reach very far from the shore.

III. In every case of danger, application must be made with the utmost expedition to one of the places mentioned below, which may be nearest to that of the accident, for two Drag-poles, and proper assistance ; and also to the nearest Medical Assistant.

IV. Each person must cautiously apply his Drag-pole in different directions, near the spot where the body had sunk, until it be found. They must now assist each other ; and should it appear upon raising the body towards the surface of the water, that one hook is *dangerously* placed, or that the hold is too slight to support the weight *out* of the water, the other must be applied in a safer and securer manner before the body is raised *above* the surface. As much gentleness is to be used as is consistent with expedition. When a Boat is used, not more than *three* persons must be in it ; two to search for the body, &c. and one to direct the Boat.

V. In removing the Body to the nearest Receiving-house, great care must be taken that it be not bruised, nor shaken violently, nor roughly handled, nor carried over any one's shoulders with the head hanging downwards, nor rolled upon the ground, nor lifted up by the heels, as used to be the absurd and dangerous custom. The unfortunate object should be cautiously conveyed by two or more persons, or upon some vehicle upon straw, lying as in a bed, with the head a little raised, and kept in as natural and easy a position as possible.

N. B. The public may be assured from the highest authority, that the idea of its being unlawful to carry a body from the place of the accident before the Coroner has examined it, is totally ill-founded. The opinion of Counsel has been taken upon the question, and it has been pronounced not only lawful but a duty. The office of a Coroner, in cases of sudden death, is to examine in what manner it could have happened; consequently his office cannot commence before the subject is incontestibly dead; which in such cases cannot be known until the proper methods for restoration shall have been used in vain.

VI. The body being well dried with a cloth should be placed in a moderate degree of heat, but not too near a large fire; the mouth and nostrils should be cleaned from mud: the windows or door of the room should be left open, and no more persons be admitted into it than those who are absolutely necessary, as the life of the patients greatly depends upon their having the benefit of the pure air. The warmth most promising of success is that of a bed or blanket properly heated. Bottles of hot water should be laid at the bottom of the feet, in the joints of the knees, and under the arm-pits; and a warming-pan moderately heated, or hot bricks wrapped in clothes, should be rubbed over the body, and particularly along the back. The natural and kindly warmth of a healthy person lying by the body of a young subject, has been

found in many cases very efficacious. The shirt or clothes of an attendant, the skin of a sheep fresh killed, or whatever will produce kindly warmth may be used with advantage. Should these accidents happen in the neighbourhood of a warm-bath, brew-house, bake-house, glass-house, brick-kiln, or any fabric where warm lees, ashes, embers, grains, sand, water, &c. are conveniently procured, it would be of the utmost service to place the body in any of these, moderated to a degree of heat rather exceeding that of a healthy person.

VII. The body being placed in one or other of these advantageous situations as speedily as possible, the attendants may apply various kinds of stimulants during the absence of the Medical Assistant ; such as rubbing the belly, chest, back, and arms, with a coarse cloth or flannel dipped in brandy, rum, or gin. Spirits of hartshorn, or any other volatile salts, may be applied to the nostrils, and rubbed upon the temples very frequently.

VIII. Should there be any signs of returning life, such as sighing, gasping, twitchings, or any other convulsive motions, or the return of the natural colour, or a fuller appearance of the veins in the temples, neck, &c. the same methods should be continued with vigour, the throat may be tickled with a feather, in order to excite a propensity to vomit: the nostrils also may be tickled with a feather, snuff, or

any other stimulant, so as to provoke sneezings. As soon as appearances of life will permit, a tea-spoonful of warm water may be administered now and then, in order to learn whether the power of swallowing be returned. If it be, a table-spoonful of warm wine, or weak brandy and water, may be given with advantage; but not before, as the liquor might enter the lungs. If the subject has been a considerable time in the water, a speedy recovery is not to be expected. There are many instances in which the patient has been restored, though during the first *two*, nay *three* hours, no signs of life have appeared.

The vulgar notion that a person will recover in a few minutes or not at all, and the ignorant, foolish ridiculing of those who are not disposed to persevere, as if they were attempting impossibilities, has certainly caused the death of numbers, who might otherwise have been saved.

It is proper to inform the public, that in apparent Deaths from any other sudden cause, the subject is not to be neglected as irrecoverably lost. By the application of the stimulating methods recommended above, they will probably revive. Attention must however be paid to the following particulars:—

In apparent Death from Intense Cold.

It is dangerous to expose the body to too great a degree of warmth, on the contrary, it must first be

rubbed with snow, pounded ice in water, or cold water; and warmth must be applied by very slow degrees.

Intoxication. Suspension by the Cord.

Although the above methods may be used, yet it is peculiarly requisite to call in medical assistance, as the manner of treatment is to be varied, according to circumstances.

Suffocation by Noxious Vapours, or by Lightning.

Cold water repeatedly thrown in the face has been found peculiarly efficacious; drying the body at intervals. If it feels cold, gradual warmth must be applied.

DRAG-POLES AND RECEIVING HOUSES.

The public are informed, that drags of a particular construction, fixed upon long poles which take a securer hold, and are much less dangerous than common boat hooks, are deposited at the following places:—viz Grosvenor-Garden Tap; Mrs. Mason's, Porter-Butt, Walcot; Ferry, Bath-wick; Mr. Hunt's, Ostridge, Grove-street; Mrs. Bolland's, Crown, Bath-wick; White-Hart, Widcombe; Full-Moon, Old-Bridge; Mr. Silcox's, bottom of Avon-street; Ferry, Green-Park Buildings; and at the Dolphin, Twerton.

The body of the unfortunate object will also be humanely received at either of the above houses. The nearest to the place of accidents must always be preferred:

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE,

In accidents that happen in any part of the Canal, or in the course of the River on the Bathwick side apply to Messrs. Bowen and Spry, Pulteney-Bridge, with whom is deposited a set of Apparatus; or to Mr. Smith, Bridge-street. In accidents near Green-Park-Buildings, East; Dr. Boisragon, No. 19, Green-park-Buildings, West, with whom is deposited a set of Apparatus; Dr. Langworthy, 43, New King-street; Mr. Norman, 24, New King-street; or Mr. Lyster, 20, Stanhope-street. In accidents in the course of the River from Grosvenor-Gardens to Walcot, on the Walcot side, apply to Mr. Edwards, Walcot; Dr. Robinson, 14, Paragon-Buildings; Mr. Lucas, 17, Paragon-Buildings, with whom is deposited a set of Apparatus; Dr. Murray, 12, Bladud-Buildings; or Mr. Hay, Bladud-Buildings. In accidents that happen in the neighbourhood of Twerton, apply to Mr. Bush, Surgeon.

REWARDS.

In order to procure immediate aid, and encourage perseverance, the Society promises the following Rewards:

I. To the person who shall first procure the Drag, *Half-a-Crown*.

II. To the person or persons not exceeding four in number, who shall take the body out of the water, convey it to a Receiving-House, and continue to use the means of restoration for the space of two hours, the sum of *One Guinea*, to be equally divided.

N. B. The Society will also give an additional Reward in every extraordinary case of danger, or exertion, or success.

III. To the owner of a boat who shall *first* bring or send it to the place of the accident, *Half-a-Crown*.

IV. To publicans and others, who shall receive the body of the unfortunate object into their houses, or under a convenient shelter, and give such assistance as may be required, *Half-a-Guinea*; and a reimbursement for every reasonable expence that may be incurred.

V. To the messenger who shall first apply to the Medical Assistant, nearest to the place of accident, or the Receiving house, *Half-a-Crown*.

N. B. It will be the province of the Medical Assistant, to decide who are the persons entitled to either of the above rewards.

. Attempts must be made within *one hour* after the accident has happened, or no reward will be given.



CONCISE STATEMENT

OF THE

Accidents which happened in the Year 1805,

AND FOR WHICH

PREMIUMS WERE PAID BY THE SOCIETY.

AUG. 21.—A Young Lad was taken out of the river Avon, by — Roberts, the ferryman. His name unknown: the time in which he had been in the water unknown; but supposed to have been several hours.

AUG. 28.—*William Cooper*, aged 6 years, was saved from drowning by Thomas Curl and others. The child was taken out with signs of life, but became insensible for the space of half an hour.

SEPT. 11.—*Mary Slip and her Son* were saved from drowning by — Roberts, the waterman.—The woman was pregnant about seven months, and dangerously ill for some time, but by the assiduous attention of Dr. Boisragon she recovered.

SEPT. 25.—Two Children were taken out of the River, at Twerton, by James Broad, ferryman. The

youngest was saved, being immediately taken out; the other was not known to be in the water at the time, and was taken out too late to be recovered.

SEPT. 26.—A Woman, named *Lathier*, threw herself into the River, near Claverton-street: was immediately taken out by T. Catcly and H. Brown.

STATEMENT

OF THE

Accidents which happened in the Year 1806,

FOR WHICH

PREMIUMS WERE PAID BY THE SOCIETY.

JUNE 5.—The body of a Young Woman was taken out of the river, near Green-Park-Place, and conveyed to the house of Mr. Silcock, Avon-street; to whom the premium was paid. It is supposed, that she threw herself in, in consequence of a dispute with her mother, as she was seen walking by the side of the river in a melancholy state.

JUNE 9.—A Chimney Sweeper, in Avon-street, threw himself into the river, from a fit of desperation at a loss he had sustained. He was taken out by Alex. Bailey, to whom the premium of the Society was paid.

JUNE 16.—A poor Boy, named *Burnet*, who served the masons, fell into the River, near the Old Bridge. About twenty minutes were elapsed before a boat could be procured. He was taken out lifeless by Roberts, Mr. Silcock, and — Partridge, and conveyed to Mr. Bostock's, at the Full Moon, by the Bridge; when every assistance was given, but in vain.

JUNE 18.—Roberts took a Child, aged about 6 years, out of the River, near to Green-Park-Place. He had been in the water about six or seven minutes, but was soon recovered, and restored to his happy parents.

JUNE 28.—As two Children were fishing in the River, by West-Mead, near the Cascade, the youngest, about 6 years old, dropt his rod, and in endeavouring to recover it, fell beyond his depth. The elder, whose name is Hucklebridge, attempting to save him fell in also, crying out for assistance, fortunately within the hearing of John Edny, of Holloway; this young man plunged into the water with the utmost expedition, and saved the latter from drowning. It is difficult to guess at the time elapsed before the young man was informed of the accident which had befallen the younger child; he was at last found, but the vital spark was extinguished; and although several medical gentlemen exerted themselves for some hours, the child was irrecoverably lost.

JULY 5.—A Boy aged 7 years, the son of a widow named Ford, fell into the river, near the timber-yard, by the Old Bridge. Upon an alarm given by some women, Richard Rossiter, who was at work in a timber-yard, assisted by Robert Young, rescued the child from imminent danger. The immediate assistance given enabled him to lay hold of the pole stretched out to him, although he had sunk twice. He was much exhausted, and fell into a state of stupor as soon as taken out, but afterwards perfectly recovered. The neighbours spoke much of the assiduity of the two men.

JULY 7.—*Mansel Lloyd*, aged 8 years, fell from a tree into the water, as he was attempting to reach his hat, which a playmate had thrown into it. It was opposite to Grosvenor-buildings, and though he was seen by several persons, who ran in various directions for boats and drags, yet they could not be procured in time to save him. Several medical gentlemen tried their utmost skill, but in vain.

JULY 12.—A Child named *Warren*, living at No. 2, Claverton-street, aged 5 years, fell into the head of the lock, near the new bridge, by the river; the water being very low, it was with difficulty he was taken out; but John Beachwood, a gentleman's servant, assisted by Benjamin Collins, at last happily succeeded.

JULY 18.—A Boy, name unknown, was taken out

of the river, by Kingsmead-Terrace, by Roberts, the ferryman. He is supposed to have been in the water upwards of half an hour. He was attended by Mr. Golding, jun. but without success.

JULY 20.—A Boy, taken out by the same man; the time in which he had been in the river is unknown. He was attended by young Mr. Norman, but without success.

JULY 21.—A Lad was taken out of the river, by Walcot-Terrace, after having been a few minutes in the water. At first he was insensible, but soon restored by Mr. Edwards, surgeon.

JULY 22.—As *T. Vaughan*, son of the hostler, at the Angel Inn, was watering a horse by the Old Bridge, the water being very high, the horse was carried to the middle of the stream, and they were both in the utmost danger, but James Roberts and Thomas Vaughan, procuring a cart-rope, were fortunate enough to draw the horse and its rider towards the shore, by which means they happily escaped.

AUG. 4—*Henry Scarfe*, of Caroline-buildings, fell into the head of the reservoir, contiguous to the buildings, as he was playing by the side of it, and was happily restored to his parents.

The same day, a Child, son of Mr. Hill, of Caroline-buildings, was seen to fall into the water at the same place, by a person happily passing by, and was providentially saved.

IN order to provide against these various species of evils, some individuals of the Society have paid great attention to the different modes of assistance requisite. Two gentlemen of this city, Dr. Cogan, and Mr. Stone, jun. have contrived drags of different constructions. Each drag has its peculiar advantages ; and, as we think that they deserve the public attention, we have procured an etching of each, to which we have subjoined a particular description.

Description of new and improved Drags.

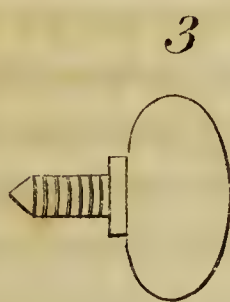
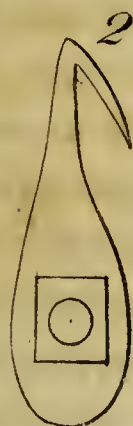
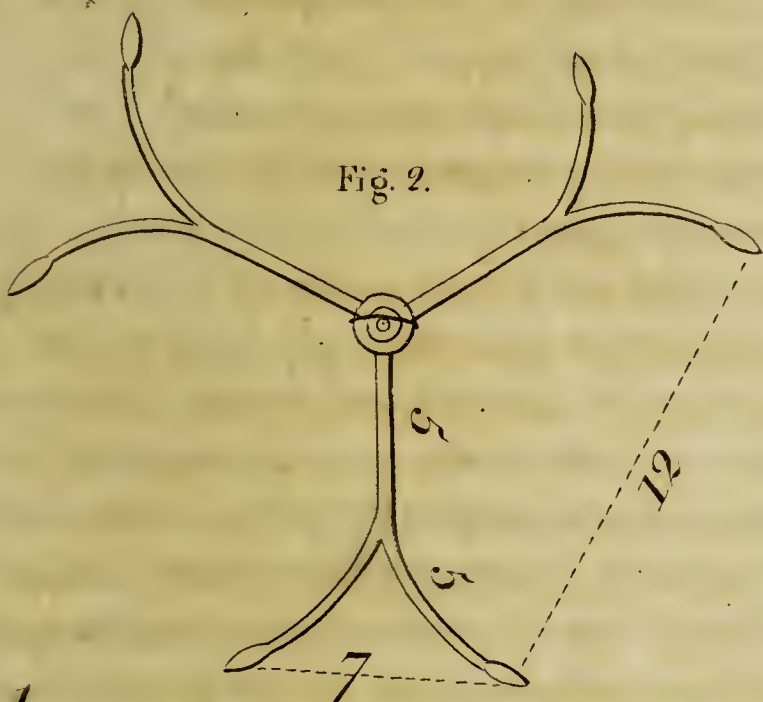
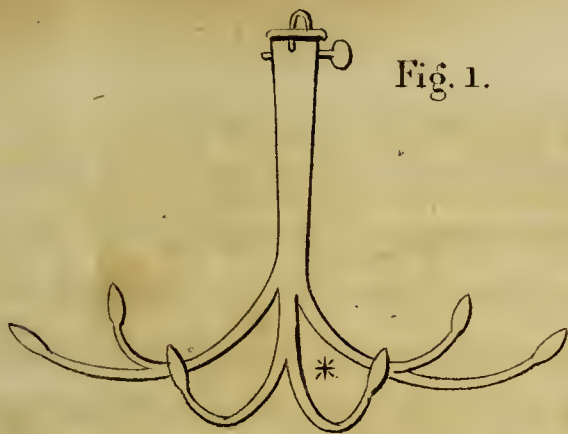
Dr. Cogan informs us, that from the first institution of the *Royal Humane Society*, this subject has occasionally engaged his attention. He was dissatisfied with every construction in the form of drags, which he had seen both in England and Holland. They were attended with very essential defects. Some of them were not calculated to produce the success desired ; and others were so formed, as absolutely to induce danger. The original drags for the aid of drowning persons were first constructed in Holland. They were merely adapted to the assistance of those, who should accidentally fall into the water in their clothes ; such as boatmen or bargemen, whose dress in that country is always so ample and voluminous, that little danger could accrue from the sharpest point, three quarters of an inch in length, placed upon the curvature of the drag, in a perpendicular direction. But, as in every accident the sub-

ject might not be equally defended against the danger of a deep penetration, the Dr. attempted to obviate the evils that might arise from the perpendicular direction of the points, and shortness of the curistures of the instrument, which were too contracted to embrace either a leg or an arm ; by enlarging the curistures several inches, and by giving to the points an oblique direction, by which they could not lacerate to any considerable depth. But these drags could be of no service to *Bathers*, who are destitute of clothes. To the drag used by the Royal Humane Society there are many objections :—it is heavy and unwieldy ; and although, by the extent of its arms, it is able to embrace any part of the body, yet they are so distant from each other, that a young person, a child particularly, might easily slip through the intermediate spaces. Its points are too blunt to penetrate the clothes, or sufficiently sharp to bruise the body, which must necessarily rest upon them, as often as it is raised above the surface of the water ; consequently it is neither adapted for the naked body, nor to derive an advantage from its being clothed. These objections, which presented themselves upon the first view of the instrument, were too convincingly confirmed, by an accident which happened in the course of last summer, on the *Serpentine* River ; when it was asserted, that the hooks missed their hold, not less than three times, and the unfortunate person was consequently drowned.

To escape the disadvantages of every other mode of construction, and unite their advantages, the Dr. has contrived the instrument, of which a sketch is given in the annexed plate, which will be made intelligible by the following description :

The instrument is entirely of iron, and consists of three arms projecting from a central point, and curved towards the extremities. These extremities are about one foot from the centre. Within three inches of the end, is a subdivision, forming two points, which bend in opposite directions. The distance of the two points, in each subdivision, is about seven inches, and the distance of the points projecting from each limb, and opposed to each other, is about twelve inches. From the centre rises a style, or socket, in a conic form, about eight inches long ; the upper surface of which is an inch and a quarter in diameter ; over it is a small moveable iron loop. This cavity is to admit the end of a long pole, which is to be fixed in the socket, by means of an iron peg, which passes through holes made in the sides of the socket and the pole ; so that the pole may be taken out at pleasure. See plate I. fig. 1. for a side view of the instrument, with its socket and pin ; and fig. 2, for an extended view of its arms and branches.

At each extremity of the branches, is a fissure, see No. 1, along which a hook, No. 2, is made to slide ; this may be kept firm in its place by the screw No. 3.



1, 2, 3, 4, is the real shape and size of the points to the drag.



N. B. No. 4 represents the hook fixed at the end of the branch. At the bottom of the instrument, is a projecting iron, about three inches in length, terminating in a ring; to which a rope, about twelve yards long is to be attached. At the other extremity of the rope a large cork is fastened—see fig. 1.*

The advantages proposed by this peculiar construction of the instrument, are the following :

I.—By the length of the branches, and their different curistures, the probabilities are multiplied that the instrument will lay firm hold of some part of the body. It is morally certain to catch an arm, a leg, thigh, foot, or the chin, in such a manner as to enable the assistant to bring the body to the surface of the water, without the possibility of an injury. In some directions it may embrace the whole body; for which there is space between the most distant extremities; their curistures would catch at the arm-pits, and prevent its falling through. It was upon this account that the principal branches are so few: had they been double the number, the spaces would not have been sufficiently large to secure a hold in every direction.

II.—When the subject is naked, as is the case with *Bathers*, sharp-pointed instruments are dangerous, which forms an objection to most of the instruments hitherto in use, particularly where the curisture of the branches is but a few inches in dia-

meter. As in the present instrument the chances of laying hold are so numerous, sharp points may be dispensed with; they are therefore made to recede by being screwed below the extreme edge of the branches. But when the unhappy subject has fallen into the water with his clothes on, as these spread and float in various directions, hooks must be of the utmost service, and this advantage will be gained by making the hooks to project, as at No. 4.

N. B. By the hook's being on one side only, and not bearded like an arrow, it penetrates the clothes with much greater ease.

III.—In some cases the use of a long pole is very advantageous; as when a boat is at hand, and the assistant can row to the place where the body is supposed to lie. In many other cases a rope, twenty-six to thirty yards in length, fastened to the ring at the top of the socket, obviously becomes necessary, as the longest pole can be made to extend to a small distance only. Where the pole alone is used, it should be as long as that of a common boat-hook, or about fifteen or sixteen feet, beyond which it becomes unwieldy. From experiments that have been made, the *union* of these appears to be much preferable to either alone. It has been found, that a rope fastened to the ring, and made to pass through a hole at the upper extremity of the pole, unites every advantage. The pole adds so much steadiness and *momentum* to

the drag, that it can be thrown several yards farther than without it; and when the body is drawn near to the side of a vessel or the shore, the pole will be found of great use in directing the future operation. It must however be noted, that where the pole and the rope are in use together, the former should not be more than ten or twelve feet in length; for it would, if longer, become too heavy to be thrown at a great distance, and, excepting the weight of the drag were considerably increased, the pole, by its floating, would prevent the iron from sinking.

IV.—When accidents happen in *rivers*, it is often by the sides of them, where the roots and stumps of trees extend themselves under the surface of the water, and are liable to impede the action of the drag. Sometimes the curved arms of the drag are entangled by them; nor will they be extricated by pulling in the direction of the line, which cannot in such cases be pushed backwards like a pole. Under these difficulties the lower rope may prove of great service; the floating cork will mark its position, and when the assistant is in a boat, or on shore contiguous to the spot, by laying hold of this and pulling it towards him, the difficulty will be removed.

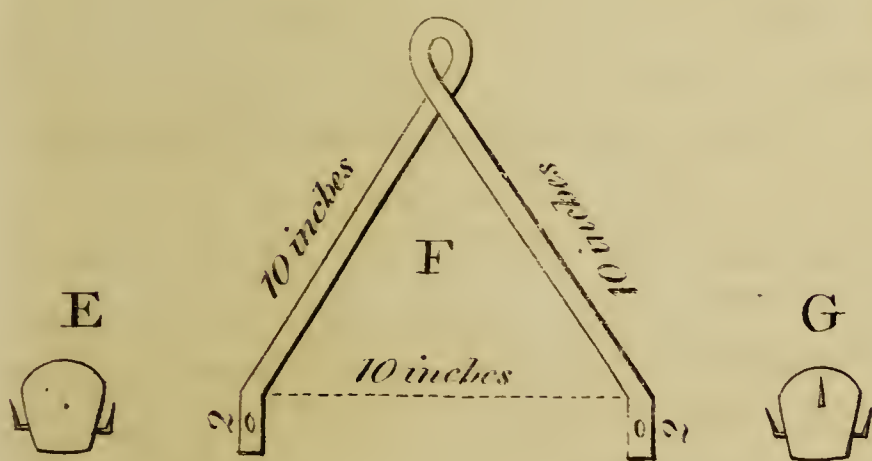
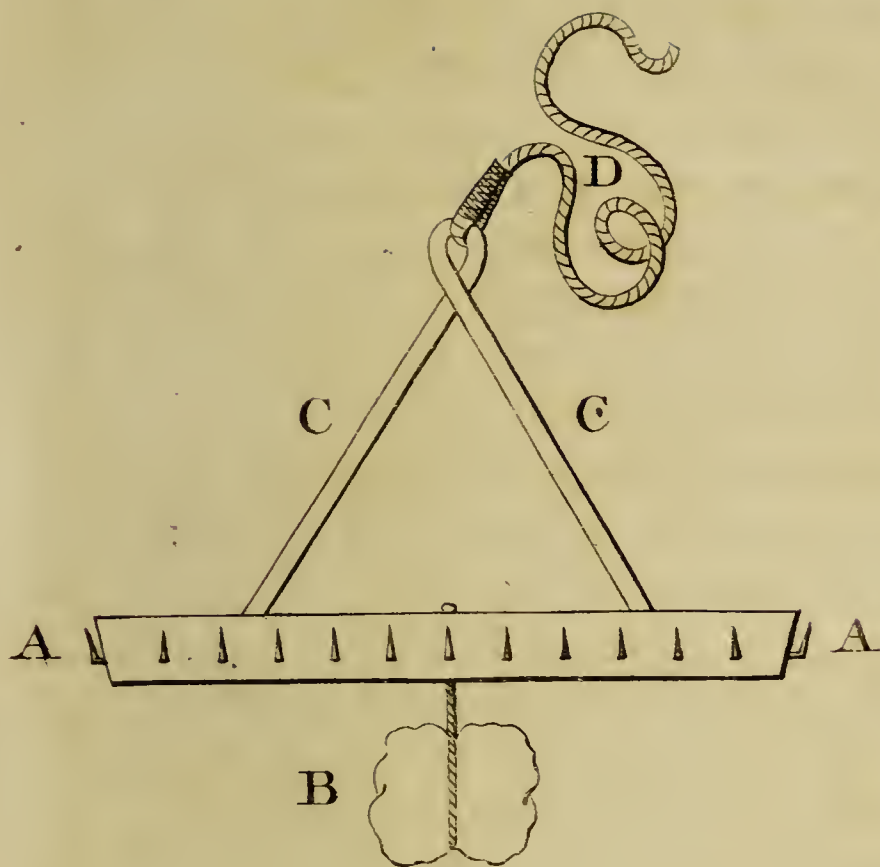
The above instrument, being calculated for various purposes, must have a provision for each purpose, and consequently become more complicated than others, which will proportionably enhance its price.

A single instrument cannot be made for less than a *guinea* ; the rope and pole cost about four shillings. A smith would, doubtless, undertake a stipulated number at a less price.

Mr. J. Stone's Description of the Drag, &c. See Plate II.

As the want of drags has been severely felt, and several drowned before the drag or boat hook could arrive ; this drag is therefore recommended for its cheapness, and the certainty with which it takes hold of the clothes without materially injuring the body. Though it can only be used when the person is clothed, it will be found peculiarly useful for the canal and river, where above five out of six are drowned with their clothes on ; and the specific gravity of the human body being only a few pounds heavier than water, any thing that takes hold of the clothes, will bring the body gently to the surface. When a person falls from the bank into the river, the body is seldom within reach of a pole, consequently the drag or boat hook is useless without a boat. This drag, by having a long cord, can be used immediately, by throwing it beyond the body, and gently draw it to shore.

A. A. is a piece of ash, originally round, and eighteen inches long, and about two inches in diameter, having the two sides planed, so that the upper may be wider than the lower part. At each side, and at the ends, tenter hooks are driven, at an inch and





half distance, near the low edge of the planed part, to within an eighth of an inch of the wood. The tenter hook ought to be about three quarters of an inch long in that part which is on the outside of the wood, and they ought also to be sharpened with a file. B.—A stone fastened in a cord, which passes through the middle of the wood, and the stone is kept suspended an inch from the drag. The use of the stone is to make the drag weigh about three pounds, but if the ash is loaded in each end with lead to make it sufficiently heavy, the stone will not be wanted, and the drag will be more convenient. C. C.—A piece of iron, half an inch wide, and a quarter thick ; the arms are ten inches long, and when put through the middle of the wood at each end, it forms a triangle. D.—Thirty feet of cord. E—presents the shape of the wood, and how the tenter hooks are placed on the sides. F.—The iron before it is put into the wood. A nail is driven through the wood and the pole in the iron at each end. G—shews the manner the hooks are put at the ends.

OBSERVATIONS.

Upon a comparison of the two drags, the public will be able to appreciate them. The cheapness of that invented by *Mr. Stone*, is a very important advantage, not being more than about 3s. 6d. each.—These drags may, at a very small expense, be deposited in places nearest to those where accidents mostly

happen in such numbers, as to be expeditiously procured; which is of the utmost moment. But they cannot be applied to *Bathers*; nor will they be able to hold the body above the surface of the water for any length of time, as its weight may tear the clothes, or the hooks from their *holding*. Nor can any drag fastened to a rope be of service, when the subject has fallen through the ice in an oblique direction. They may be useful in accidents at sea; but in harbours where accidents frequently happen, the other drag at the end of a pole is preferable, as it is often necessary to hold the body for some time above the surface of the water, or the mud, till farther help can be obtained.*

In the beginning of last winter a ladder or couchette was invented, according to the plan mentioned in our former publication, and one of them was made by order of the Society. But the mildness of the winter has deprived us of the opportunity of trying their utility. If they should appear to merit attention after experiments have been made, a particular description will be given in a future publication.

* *The Society instituted at London for the Encouragement of Arts, &c.* having proposed a premium to the person who shall invent and produce to the Society a cheap and portable Drag, superior to those now in use, for the purpose of taking up, in the best and most expeditious manner, and with the least injury, the bodies of persons who have sunk under water. *Dr. Cogan presented the above, and was honoured with the GOLD MEDAL.*

BATH HUMANE SOCIETY.

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Lord Lieutenant of the County of Somerset.

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Mrs. Rambouillet ..	0	10	6	Rev. Mr. Simpson	1	1	0
Colonel Little	0	10	6	G. E. Allen, esq. ..	1	1	0
Rev. A. Stoughton	0	10	6	Mrs. Maltby	1	1	0
Rev. R. Warner ..	0	10	6	Miss Maltby	1	1	0
Rev. R. Richards ..	0	10	6	Messrs. Crooks' ..	1	1	0
				J. Brander, esq. ..	1	1	0
				Mr. Kemp, grocer	0	10	6

The HUMANE SOCIETY, in account with the TREASURERS.

DISBURSEMENTS.

1806.	£.	s.	d.
To paid for stationary, printing, &c.	10	11	8
To paid various rewards for taking up the bodies of drowned persons	9	18	0
To paid an unfortunate Man, per Dr. Cogan	1	1	0
To paid Dr. Cogan, for sundries disbursed by him	6	8	0
Balance in hand, to next year's account	59	13	6
	<u>£87</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2</u>

RECEIPTS.

1806.	£.	s.	d.
Jan. 1.—By balance of last year's account	36	6	10
Feb.—By cash of Messrs. Clement and Tugwell	20	0	0
By subscriptions recd. this year ..	31	5	4

£87 12 2

1807.

Jan. 1.—By balance in hands of the Treasurers	59	13	6
Subs. received by Dr. Boistragon.,	12	0	0

An Ode,
 READ AT THE FIRST MEETING
 OF
 THE BATH HUMANE SOCIETY.

RESUSCITATION HAIL! whose potent breath
 Can wrest the Victim from impending Death;
 Type of the World's great Saviour! him whose hand
 Could make the still, cold breast again expand;
 And, list'ning to the Widow's piercing cries,
 Command to life her bier-stretch'd Son to rise;
 Oh! glorious attribute of pow'r divine!
 To shield, to succour, and to save bethine!

The treach'rous stream, that stilly winds
 Around old Badon's walls,
 Lures to its bosom youthful minds,
 And by its smile enthrals.

One, fearless of its surface green,*
 Adventures from the shore:—
 Through eddies strong, or depths unseen,
 He sinks—to rise no more!

* It has long been the prophetic remark of the good old Ladies of Bath, that "When the river looked particularly green, there would *certainly* be some person shortly drowned!"

And scorning Heav'n's first law, ah ! wretch accurs'd !
 " His Maker braves, and dares him to the worst !"
 Meet consolation, with reprov'als kind,
 Cheer'd, soothed, and reconciled the chasten'd mind.
 Whilst mild RELIGION ev'ry effort tries,
 To crush DESPAIR, and point to happier skies.
 Oh ! then, ye Promoters of this hallow'd plan,
 Who the embers of life thus successfully fan ;
 Proceed in your labours, so nobly begun,
 And be to mischance, like the beams of the sun,
 Whose heat can invig'rate the senseless cold clod !
 And bid the sunk spirit rejoice in its God !
 Keep from obloquy's stain, what too long has been said
 —In Avon once sunk—irretrievably dead ;*
 Be the slaying of thousands the boast of the Brave—
 Your triumphs are greater—your boast is—TO SAVE !

Bath, Dec. 17, 1805.

W. MEYLER.

* Few, very few instances of the recovery of persons who have fallen into this river have ever occurred—the want of an Establishment like the present was doubtless the cause of accidents proving so generally fatal.

